

Madera County IRWMP

Attachment 3 – Work Plan

I. Background:

A. History of IRWM Planning process and planning effort to date

In 2006, the County of Madera obtained a Proposition 50 IRWM Planning grant and began the process of developing an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) for managing and protecting its water resources. Local stakeholders chose the County boundaries as a region for several reasons:

- These boundaries represent both upper and lower watersheds and can provide a comprehensive setting to address the interactions and conflicts between them;
- The valley area boundaries are fairly contiguous with groundwater basins and the water and irrigation districts which are represented have been interacting with each other and the County for many years and have already addressed many serious policy issues. These pre-existing relationships and policy discussions could be leveraged for the planning effort.
- The policies and projects in the IRWMP could be effectively implemented within the County's jurisdiction.

The original IRWMP was developed with the help of an engineering consulting firm, Boyle Engineering. A project manager provided coordination of stakeholder input. Staff from the County and other agencies assisted this process by providing technical information about groundwater, flooding issues, vegetation management, water systems, etc. Groundwater quantity and quality studies were implemented for both subregions and some mitigation planning was done for specific water quality concerns (arsenic and uranium). In addition, a region-wide groundwater monitoring program was developed. The Table of Contents of the Plan is attached (See Attachment 1)

a. Regional Goals

For planning purposes, the Region was divided into two subareas in recognition of the hydrogeologic differences: 1) the Valley Floor and 2) the Foothills and Mountains. The goals of the IRWMP were developed for each of the two subareas.

The specific goals for the Valley Floor are to:

- Substantially reduce or eliminate the current groundwater overdraft through improved management of existing water supplies and development of additional water supplies.
- Develop processes to better manage groundwater pumping.
- Incorporate flood protection into the water management strategy.
- Maintain and/or improve groundwater quality.
- Develop a groundwater monitoring program.

The Foothills and Mountains goals are to:

- Create realistic, practical, implementable, and enforceable policies governing groundwater management to sustain the supply.
- Assess the feasibility of surface water supply development.
- Assess the potential for conservation, wastewater reuse/recycling, and watershed management.
- Create realistic land development policies and practices.
- Develop and implement a groundwater monitoring program.

b. Plan Scope

The scope of work for the original IRWMP included the following tasks:

- Identification of alternatives to improve water supply through water resource management optimization in this Region.
- Identification of potential new water supply sources.
- Development of alternatives to protect and improve water quality in this Region.
- Review of this Region's flood control program and development of recommendations to be implemented by the Madera County Flood Control and Water Conservation Agency (Madera County FCWCA).
- Planning process, public education, and administration.

The objectives associated with each task are outlined below:

1. Water Resource Management Optimization

The specific objectives of this task were to:

- Determine the adequacy of existing water supplies, given current levels of economic activity and development.
- Maximize the use of existing water supplies.

- Explore groundwater and surface water conjunctive use opportunities.
- Maximize groundwater recharge.
- Contribute to a Water Management Plan that, while accounting for regional differences, is consistent and equitably deals with the issue of distributing a scarce resource.

2. Evaluating and Increasing Water Supplies

The specific objectives of this task were to:

- Assess viable alternatives for obtaining and acquiring new sources of water for Madera County.
- Recognize the hydrogeologic, economic, and demographic differences between the Valley Floor and Foothills and Mountains regions.
- Create a plan for water supply enhancement in parts of this Region where needed.

3. Water Quality Protection and Improvement

The specific objective of this task was to identify feasible methods of using management, infrastructure, monitoring, and technology to protect and improve surface water and groundwater quality in this Region.

4. Flood Control Planning

The specific objective of this task was to provide the information necessary for this Region to create a comprehensive flood control program for flood prone areas within this Region.

5. Planning Process, Public Education and Administration

The specific objectives of this task were to:

Create public awareness of and input to the topics and issues being addressed by this study.

- Promote public discussion of the issues and recommendations resulting from this study.
- Develop a Madera Region IRWMP that reflects the geographic, economic, and demographic diversity of the Madera Region.
- Provide consistent water management policies and practices that can ultimately be implemented by Madera Region.
- Comply with reporting and payment requirements that meet this Region's obligations to the grantee and contractors.
- Assist the Madera Region in creating an IRWMP that is consistent with current and emerging California water law and IRWMP requirements.

c. IRWMP's Relationship to Existing Water Management Plans

The following groundwater management plans and reports were relied upon to provide some of the background for understanding the historical water resources issues in this Region.

- 2005 Urban Water Management Plan, Boyle Engineering Corporation
- AB 3030 Groundwater Management Plan for Madera County, Todd Engineers, January 2002
- Groundwater Conditions in Eastern Madera County Technical Memorandum, Todd Engineers, March 2002
- AB 3030 Groundwater Management Plan for Madera Irrigation District, Boyle Engineering Corporation, May 1999
- Groundwater Management Study for the Chowchilla Water District, Fugro West, Inc. June 2006
- Groundwater Conditions in the Oakhurst Basin (AB 303 Study), Kenneth D.Schmidt and Associates, November 2005
- AB 303 Groundwater Management Plan for Root Creek Water District Summary Report, Provost & Pritchard Engineering Group, May 2003
- AB 3030 Groundwater Management Plan for Root Creek Water District, Provost & Pritchard Engineering Group, October 1997
- AB 3030 Groundwater Management Plan for Chowchilla Water District – Red Top RCD Joint Powers Authority, ANON 1997
- In-Lieu Groundwater Recharge Facilities Feasibility Study for Root Creek Water District, Provost & Pritchard Engineering Group, April 2003
- Phase 1A Basin Assessment Report for Chowchilla Groundwater Basin, Water Resources & Information Management Engineering, Inc. April 2002
- Basin Assessment Report (Phase IB) For Chowchilla Groundwater Basin, Water Resources & Information Management Engineering, Inc. May 2002
- San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors - Groundwater Management Plan

The data in these documents were reviewed and supplemented by more current data collected by the consulting team for the IRWMP.

d. Stakeholder Participation

Participation by the public and other Regional stakeholders was important to the development of the IRWMP. Advisory committees were formed to assist in the deliberation of issues addressed in the IRWMP. The Advisory Committees comprised over 80 individuals representing community organizations, municipalities, irrigation and water districts, and non-districted areas. This outreach was designed to elicit input from the local communities on their local knowledge and concerns. Details on the Advisory Committees and the public participation are summarized as follows:

1. Foothills and Mountains Advisory Committees

Four Advisory Committees were formed to represent the community study areas in the Foothills and Mountains of this Region. The four Advisory Committees represented the communities of Oakhurst, North Fork, Coarsegold, and Raymond. Due to the commonality of certain issues, joint advisory committee meetings were occasionally held. Approximately 17 advisory committee meetings were held with the Foothills and Mountains committees to discuss Plan development. In addition, numerous meetings were previously held during the Oakhurst hydro-geologic evaluation.

2. Valley Floor Advisory Committee

The Valley Floor was represented by one advisory committee which held approximately ten committee meetings. The primary focus of the Valley Floor advisory committee was to develop water management strategies that would help alleviate the overdraft in the Valley Floor. There was a particular focus on the non-districted areas on the Valley Floor, where the estimated overdraft is the most severe because of an absence of surface water supplies and groundwater is the sole source of water.

3. Public Review of Draft Plan

A draft of the IRWMP was made available for public review and comment. A copy of the draft Plan was made available at several locations throughout this Region and was also available on a project website (www.maderawater.com), which was also accessible through a link on the Madera County website. The purpose of this exercise was for organizations, agencies, and individuals to provide comments and input to the IRWMP for consideration prior to its presentation to the Board of Supervisors for acceptance. In addition, three public meetings were held to present and receive public comments on the draft Plan. Written comments were also accepted by the County.

e. Plan Acceptance and Updates

It has been the intent of this Region that the IRWMP is a “living document” that will be updated and revised as conditions change or additional data and information is made available. The initial commitment was for the Regional Water Management Group to review the plan every six months and make recommendations for updates and modifications. However, just as the region’s stakeholders were adopting the plan, the new IRWM requirements of Proposition 84 came into being. Since that time the region’s stakeholders

have focused their energy on developing a regional water management group and preparing to update the plan to the new Prop 84 standards. The proposed IRWM Planning funds will allow an update of the current Plan to meet these standards and to address any changes in conditions or knowledge. This work will include the development of mechanisms to periodically review and update the Plan into the future.

B. Current Implementation Process

A Regional Water Management Group has been developed for the region (see detailed discuss, next section). The RWMG has developed the following project implementation process¹:

A subcommittee of the RWMG periodically reviews proposed projects for consistency with the IRWMP and recommends a prioritized list of projects to be carried out within the Region. All new project proposals must meet the standards identified in the IRWMP for the Region. The RWMG then holds a public meeting to review the recommendation made by the subcommittee. These meetings are publicized through notice in the newspaper and e-mails to known stakeholders at least 30 days in advance to allow enough time to prepare alternative lists, or to compile data for presentation at the meeting. Approval of the final project list is by consensus of the RWMG. If a consensus is not reached after good faith efforts by all parties to agree, the RWMG prepares a summary showing the differing recommendations and concerns expressed by the various Stakeholders indicating which proposals achieved consensus and which proposals did not reach consensus by the RWMG.

Project proponents will be responsible for completing proposed projects and providing project reports to the RWMG. The RWMG will be responsible for monitoring the implementation of the IRWMP. The technical advisory committee will regularly report to the RWMG regarding progress on the development and implementation of the IRWMP. The RWMG will be responsible for coordinating data collection and dissemination and will facilitate this through the Madera County Water Advisory Commission (for projects that are under the County's jurisdiction).

The RWMG will designate the Fiscal Agent to be the 'applicant' for IRWM

¹ This process is currently being implemented for the first time in regards to the upcoming IRWM implementation funding grants.

implementation grant funds and other potential funding sources. The 'applicant' agency shall have a mission and expertise that is consistent with the purpose of the grant for which they are applying. The funds to develop and submit such funding applications shall be provided by the benefiting agency(ies).

II. Regional Water Management Group (RWMG)

A. History and Formation

The State under CWC 79562.5 and 79564, and Propositions 50 and 84, set forth requirements for the formation of an RWMG. In response, the Madera County Water Advisory Commission formed a RWMG Formation Committee to develop and implement a governance structure for the IRWMP/RWMG for the region. Various public and non-profit entities in the Region with responsibility and interests in water management have helped to develop the RWMG structure. These include

- Madera County,
- Chowchilla Water District,
- Root Creek Water District,
- City of Chowchilla,
- Madera Irrigation District,
- Chowchilla Red Top Resource Conservation District,
- Coarsegold Resource Conservation District,
- City of Madera,
- Natural Resource Conservation Services,
- Pegasus Orchards, LLC,
- Greenleaf Orchards, LTD,
- Liberty Groves, LLC, and
- Self Help Enterprises.

Entities in the region that intend to participate in the RWMG and carry out projects proposed in the IRWMP must formally adopt or accept the IRWMP. For a public agency, adoption of the IRWMP is by formal resolution of the governing body. For a non-profit or for-profit entity, proof of acceptance of the IRWMP by the equivalent of a public agency governing body is required (e.g., by a board of directors or other management entity). For a Private Agency an acknowledgement of acceptance of the IRWMP by the individual(s) authorized to bind the

Agency.

All members of the RWMG are required to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). (See Attachment 2) which covers management and governance issues. The purpose of this MOU is to document the mutual understanding among entities in the Region regarding their joint efforts toward IRWM governance and planning. This understanding facilitates future coordination, collaboration and communication for comprehensive management of water resources in Madera County.

The goal is for all of the major stakeholders in the region with responsibility for or interests in water management issues to be represented in the Madera Region RWMG decision-making structure. This diverse spectrum of stakeholders ensures that divergent opinions, strategies, and methodologies will be fully considered as management issues arise. An extensive outreach effort has already taken place in this regard. Stakeholders representing water agencies, agriculture, the county, power producers, conservation groups, state and federal agencies, watershed collaboratives, business owners, tribes, disadvantaged communities, residents, and recreation enthusiasts were invited by email and mail, as well as meeting notices in the newspaper, to take part in the first RWMG Formation Committee meeting held on January 12, 2009. Twenty-one stakeholders attended that initial meeting. Since that time, monthly meeting of the RWMG Formation Committee have taken place. RWMG Formation Committee meetings have been attended by many Stakeholder representatives including community organizations, municipalities, irrigation and water districts, and non-districted areas. The core group was comprised of individuals from the following: Root Creek Water district, Chowchilla Water District, City of Chowchilla, Madera Irrigation District, Chowchilla Red Top Resource Conservation District, Coarsegold Resource Conservation District, City of Madera, Natural Resource Conservation Services, Pegasus Orchards, LLC, Greenleaf Orchards, LTD, Liberty Groves, LLC, and Self Help Enterprises.

The RWMG Formation Committee continued to reach out to additional stakeholders, the tribal community, and disadvantage communities to expand the membership with representatives who have interest, knowledge, and experience in diverse areas of water management and policies and many others.

Since the initial meeting the RWMG has agreed on the following organizational roles:

1. Develop and implement a governance structure for the IRWMP for the Region meeting the requirements of the State under CWC 79562.5 and 79564, and Propositions 50 and 84.

2. Update and revise the IRWMP as conditions change or additional data and information are made available.
3. Identify and prioritize projects.
4. Judge for compliance various funding requests.

The goals of the RWMG have also been developed:

- To work together to develop updates, changes, amendments, additions and other modifications to the IRWMP
- To ensure that the IRWMP continually utilizes the best science and data available to address the changing conditions, needs and concerns of the region, including but not limited to
 - ecosystem restoration,
 - environmental and habitat protection and improvement,
 - water supply reliability,
 - flood management,
 - groundwater management,
 - recreation and public access,
 - storm water capture and management,
 - water conservation,
 - water quality protection and improvement,
 - water recycling,
 - wetlands enhancement and creation,
 - imported water,
 - land use planning,
 - non-point source pollution control,
 - surface storage,
 - watershed planning,
 - water and wastewater treatment, and
 - water transfers and water banking.
- To foster coordination, collaboration and communication between stakeholders, adjacent IRWM Regions and other interested parties, to achieve greater efficiencies, enhance public services, and build public support for vital projects

For one year the RWMG Formation Committee worked together to create a MOU for the official formation of the RWMG as well as to complete the Regional Acceptance Process (RAP) application

for the Madera Region. Meetings were held in many venues, seeking to include as many stakeholders as possible. During this process Madera County acted as lead agency and submitted the Regional Acceptance Process application for the Regional Water Management Group Formation. The MOU was completed after many meetings and drafts. On January 26, 2010 all organizations interested in signing the MOU to become an official member of the RWMG attended a well publicized signing event. This signing took place as an agenda item at the Madera County Board of Supervisors meeting in the County Board Chamber. At that time the organizations/agencies who signed on were:

- Madera County,
- City of Chowchilla,
- Chowchilla Water District,
- Madera Irrigation District,
- Root Creek Irrigation District,
- Gravelly Ford Irrigation District,
- Chowchilla Red Top Resource Conservation District,
- Coarsegold Resource Conservation District,
- Central Sierra Watershed Committee,
- Madera Valley Water Company,
- Sugar Pine Water,
- Yosemite Springs Public Utility Company.

Signatories added since the original adoption include:

- North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians and
- Yosemite Sequoia Resource Conservation and Development Council.

Each Party to this MOU must adopt the region's IRWMP prior to executing the MOU. For a Local Agency, adoption of the IRWMP is by formal resolution of the governing body or its equivalent (e.g., by a board of directors or other management entity). For any other entities, adoption by way of acknowledgement of acceptance of the IRWMP by the individual(s) authorized to bind the entity is required. Additional Local Agencies, Non-Profit Organizations, or other entities in the Region that desire to participate in the adoption, further development, funding, and implementation of the IRWMP may seek to join the RWMG at any time.

Since the initial adoption the RWMG has continued to meet monthly rotating their meetings between three locations to allow for additional stakeholder involvement in the vast region. This

group has created and adopted a Mission Statement, Bylaws, a Membership Code of Ethics (See Attachment 2), and have determined that all administrative procedures shall follow Robert's Rule of Order. The entity selected as Lead Agency was the Yosemite Springs Public Utility Company with the Chairperson and the Co-chairperson from that agency. The Fiscal Sponsor selected for purposes of the IRWM Planning Grant was the Yosemite/Sequoia Resource Conservation and Development Council.

III. Madera Region Description & IRWMP Boundary

A. Location

The Region is bordered on the south and west by Fresno County, on the north by Mariposa and Merced Counties, and on the east by Mono County. It is located approximately 20 miles from the Fresno metropolitan area, 166 miles from the Bay Area, 240 miles from Los Angeles, and 160 miles from the Pacific Ocean. Agriculture is the largest industry in the Region. The Madera Region resides in the southeastern section of the State's San Joaquin River hydrologic region (which is the same as the State's Water Quality Control Board Region 55) and includes the portion of Merced, San Joaquin, Chowchilla, and Fresno watersheds. (see Maps Attachment 3)

This watershed is truly unique in certain characteristics: through the roadway network, half of communities are more connected to the north and the other half are more connected to the south². Through the "water network" the San Joaquin River itself naturally flows north, yet 70% of the San Joaquin River's water is mechanically diverted south. To the north there are issues with flooding and endangered fish. There are stakeholders residing in the southern portion of the watershed that are actively engaged in restoration projects. (The fact that the San Joaquin River is now considered one of the most endangered rivers in the US highlights the need to maximize attention to restoration issues in this Region.) And there is a recognized benefit to contiguous inclusion and regional management of the Sierra National Forest that transcends both sub-regions.

² Note the roadway network is a major consideration for defining regions because of the importance of public and stakeholder involvement in the processes in order to assure the continued success of the IRWMP.

Boundary	Justification
<p>East: The boundary is the crest between Madera County and Tuolumne/ Mono Counties, beginning where the Tuolumne/ Madera/Mariposa County lines join and ending where the Fresno and Madera County lines join.</p>	<p>This boundary is within the DWR's San Joaquin River hydrologic region, the State's Water Quality Control Board Region 55, and DWR's area of interest Mountain Counties Boundaries</p>
<p>South: The upper eastern boundary begins at the crest where Madera and Fresno Counties adjoin and then roughly follows a tributary north of the San Joaquin River watershed toward Mammoth Pool Reservoir then following the San Joaquin River to the Southeast corner</p>	<p>This boundary is within the DWR's San Joaquin River hydrologic region, the State's Water Quality Control Board Region 55, and DWR's area of interest Mountain Counties boundary</p>
<p>West: From the San Joaquin River's bend along the Madera County line northwest along the San Joaquin River following the San Luis and Delta-Mendota regional boundary to a spot near the southern Merced County line that includes the Lower Chowchilla River watershed</p>	<p>This boundary matches the San Luis and Delta-Mendota regional boundary that is recognized in the Public Resources Code (the region will receive a minimum of \$40M from DWR to implement projects that reduce or eliminate discharges of subsurface agricultural drain water from the west side of the San Joaquin Valley).</p>
<p>North: Starting at the San Joaquin River and the North County Line to the intersection with the Chowchilla River then along the Centerline of the river until it intersects with the Merced County line. Then continuing along the Madera County line back up to the crest of the Sierra Nevada Range.</p>	<p>The western portion of this boundary matches a major portion of the Chowchilla river.</p>

The Madera Region encompasses the service areas of multiple local agencies and maximizes opportunities to integrate water management activities related to natural and man-made water

systems, including water supply reliability; water quality, environmental stewardship, and flood management.

The Region has been divided into two main study regions in recognition of the hydrogeologic differences. The relatively flat-lying western third of the Region, which overlies an alluvial aquifer, is referred to as the Valley Floor. The remaining eastern two-thirds of the Region, which consists of the foothills and mountains of the Sierra Nevada, is referred to in the IRWMP as the Foothills and Mountains. Although there are hydrogeologic differences between the two regions, there are opportunities to develop projects, programs, and policies that will improve water supply reliability with mutual benefit to the two regions of the entire Region. The Madera Region has contributed to the IRWMP knowledge state-wide by combining the entire County with these distinct sub-regions and addressing their hydrological and political connections.

B. Land Use

a. Valley Floor

The predominant land uses in the Valley Floor include agricultural, residential, commercial/institutional, industrial, and landscape irrigation. All of these land use types can be found in the cities of Chowchilla and Madera, with the exception of agricultural use, which comprises most of the land use outside the urban areas in the Valley Floor. Residential land use densities in the cities average 3.0 to 4.5 persons per dwelling unit. The commercial land uses comprise a mixture of shopping, financial, restaurant, and service-oriented businesses normally found in small urban areas. There are several areas of industrial zoned property within the cities and local agencies are aggressive in their attempts to attract new businesses and industries in order to help mitigate the high unemployment rate experienced in both cities and Madera County as a whole.

b. Foothills and Mountains

The predominant land uses in the Foothills and Mountains include agriculture (animal husbandry and cropping), residential and commercial (small towns and rural development), tourism, recreation, and natural resources such as the timber industry. Most of the development in the area has occurred in the foothills with elevations ranging from 300 to 3,500 feet. The foothills are used for animal grazing, animal husbandry,

irrigated and native pasture, small towns, and rural development. Cultivated agriculture, including vineyards and orchards, has recently increased in the area due to advances in agricultural technology and market demands. Relatively significant areas of commercial and residential development are located near the unincorporated communities of Oakhurst, Raymond, North Fork, Ahwahnee, Coarsegold, Indian Lakes, and Yosemite Lakes Park. Tourism and recreation are also important land uses in the foothills. Forests under federal ownership cover more than one-third of the County and include portions of the Sierra and Inyo National Forests and Yosemite National Park. Timberlands of pine and fir forests cover approximately 400,000 acres but support only a limited wood products industry in the foothills due to ever-increasing regulations.

The Madera County General Plan includes Specific Plans for towns in the foothill area including the North Fork/South Fork Community Center Area Plan, the Ahwahnee Area Plan, the Oakhurst Area Plan, and the Coarsegold Plan. A consistent theme in each plan is to maintain a rural setting. Urban development is limited to existing communities, and minimum lot sizes are usually recommended for both urban and rural development.

C. Watersheds

Runoff from rainfall and snowmelt feeds the rivers, lakes, and reservoirs in Madera County. Most of the County is drained by the San Joaquin River and its tributaries. The San Joaquin River forms most of the southern and western boundaries of Madera County and ultimately serves as the discharge point for runoff from more than 90 percent of the County (including the Fresno River and Chowchilla River basins). Less than 10 percent of precipitation and stream flow originating in Madera County drains out of the County to another river system. This occurs in the northwestern portion of the county where surface water drains westward into the Merced River system. The Fresno River basin drains much of the central part of the County. The Chowchilla River basin drains a narrow portion of the northwestern foothill region. Both of these rivers ultimately discharge to the San Joaquin River in the Valley Floor. However, water from both of these rivers reaches the San Joaquin River only in very wet years. Major reservoirs in the lower portion of the Foothills and Mountains include Millerton Lake on the San Joaquin River, Hensley Lake on the Fresno River, and Eastman Reservoir on the Chowchilla River. Major reservoirs at higher elevations include Bass Lake on the Willow Creek tributary to the San Joaquin River and Mammoth Pool Reservoir on the upper San Joaquin River. Many small lakes and reservoirs are also present, particularly at higher elevations. Major areas of

development are present within the upper Fresno River drainage (Oakhurst and Coarsegold) and the Willow Creek tributary to the San Joaquin River (Bass lake and North Fork areas).

IV. Coordination with nearby regions

To appropriately coordinate with the Inyo-Mono region to the east, Madera has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the National Park Service (NPS) Devil's Post Pile in Madera County. The Devil's Post Pile is an agreed management area (relatively very small overlap) with Inyo-Mono due to issues of accessibility (the area is only accessible from the eastern side of the Sierra Nevada whereas the Region is on the western side of the Sierra Nevada). The NPS is participating in the process and is also supportive of this approach. This MOU solution was decided collaboratively on April 6, 2009.

Since the DWR RAP process in June of 2009, the Madera RWMG has signed a MOU with the Southern Sierra RWMG to accept a common shared boundary for purposes of defining our respective IRWM Regions. (see Attachment 2) The shared boundary between the two regions is to facilitate the holistic management of the Upper San Joaquin watershed, which is almost entirely US Forest Service - Sierra National Forest. The San Joaquin River Watershed (our shared watershed) is a challenging area and the two regions are willing to work together to optimize its benefits. During normal operation of the Friant Dam 70% to 80% of the run off is transported to the south in the Friant-Kern canal. During floods, large areas of the Madera Region are flooded by the flows generated in the watershed. Both regions will need to work closely on the shared issues. All the stakeholders need to be involved in the restoration efforts of the San Joaquin River.

We have been actively pursuing and will continue to pursue integration with our neighboring areas to the north through outreach to the other adjoining IRWM Regions and are working to obtain signed MOUs. Meetings have been attended and drafts are in hand with the Mariposa Region, the Merced Region, and the Columbia Canal Area to make sure that all are willing to work together even if there is no overlap proposed. Each region does affect its neighbors watershed management should be collectively and collaboratively approached.

V. DAC Involvement

The Madera Region is divided naturally into two main study regions in recognition of the hydrogeologic differences. The relatively flat-lying western third of the Region, which overlies an alluvial aquifer, is referred to as the valley floor. The remaining eastern two-thirds of the Region, which consists of the foothills and mountains of the Sierra Nevada, is referred to as the foothills/mountains. Although there are hydrologic differences between the two regions, there are opportunities to develop projects, programs, and policies that will improve water supply reliability and quality of life with mutual benefit to the both regions found in this one vast Region.

The valley floor has the only incorporated cities in the Region. The incorporated cities are Chowchilla and Madera, which account for approximately 50 percent of the county's population. The valley floor also contains unincorporated small towns and communities, many of which are very poor. The primary industry in the valley is agriculture, accounting for 30 percent of the employment.

All of the communities in the foothill/mountain area are unincorporated. The population in the foothill/mountain area is scattered throughout a large area and can be difficult to serve. The four most populated areas in the foothill/mountain area include Oakhurst, Coarsegold, North Fork, and the Raymond-Hensley Lake area. There are two federally recognized Indian Tribal Reservations or Rancherias in the region: Picayune Rancheria for the Chukchansi Tribe and the North Fork Mono Rancheria for the Mono Tribe. Though the foothill/mountain area now depends on the tourism industry, historically the populated areas we built around ranching and logging and suffer from low income and poor infrastructure conditions.

Both Madera County as a whole and the vast majority of towns within its borders meet the definition of DACs. In order to be considered an DAC, a community must have a MHI less than \$37,994 (80% of the CA MHI).³ Madera County as a whole meets the definition of an economically disadvantaged community (DAC) with an MHI of \$36,286. In order to assess the disadvantaged status of the towns and cities within the Counties, the following is a listing of

³ In rural areas it is more accurate to use the 2000 Census figures rather than the Dept. of Finance estimates. This is because these estimates are not done on a small enough geographic area to capture the true income of a community. We have found that the Park Department Community Fact Finder tool is extremely inaccurate for our communities. In the case of one of the target communities, Fairmead, the community fact finder reports a MHI of \$44,185 whereas an income survey done within the last 12 months and following the HUD guidelines for CDBG income surveys found a MHI of approximately \$27,000.

these communities and their MHIs. Cities are reported in the census information, but for our purposes we have represented the unincorporated towns by the communities' zip codes.⁴ Of the 11 cities and towns listed, nine meet the definition of an DAC.

Community	Zip code	MHI	DAC?
Madera County		\$36,286	Y
Madera City		\$31,033	Y
Chowchilla City		\$30,729	Y
North Fork	93643	\$35,436	Y
Oakhurst	93644	\$35,455	Y
Raymond	93653	\$36,875	Y
O'Neils	93645	\$107,474	N
Fairmead	93610	\$31,437	Y
Trigo ⁵	93636		Y
Parksdale	93638	\$35,221	Y
Parkwood	93637	\$37,043	Y
Ahwahnee	93601	\$38,688	N

In addition, one of the two Tribes, the North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians, meets the DAC definition with an MHI of \$21,250.

Because the entire Region is considered a DAC, it has been the goal of both the original and the updated IRWMP to outreach to all areas and include significant tasks and resources to improve the involvement of all stakeholders in these disadvantaged communities in the IRWM process. In addition, extra care has been made to contact specific groups who assist the disadvantaged. Self Help Enterprises was on the Regional Management Group Formation Committee and is still being pursued to sign the MOU to become a member of the RWMG. We realize that organizations like Self Help Enterprises are especially important as a RWMG member because they acknowledge and understand the needs of the disadvantaged communities and would be invaluable at the table.

⁴ In rural areas, zip codes tend to be more accurate than block groups for this purpose because they follow community boundaries more accurately. Many times communities are separated into multiple block groups which, because of the low population density, also include wealthier areas in nearby cities.

⁵ For some reason, Trigo's zip code, 93636, is not reported in the census.gov American Factfinder tool, however visual inspection and familiarity with the community allows us to confidently state that it meets the EDC guidelines.

VI. Madera Region IRWMP

A. Meets Prop 50 guidelines

The County of Madera received an AB 303 grant and a Proposition 50 grant in 2006. The AB 303 grant was for groundwater management planning in the Foothills and Mountains in the eastern part of the County. The Proposition 50 grant covered IRWM planning for the entire County. Because the study areas and scope of work of the two grants overlapped, the County requested and obtained approval from DWR to combine the management and work product of the two grants for greater efficiency. These grants enabled the development of the IRWMP for the entire County; now known as the Madera Region.

The existing management plans and reports (see page 4) were relied upon to provide some of the background for understanding the historical water resource issues of the County. This information was then reviewed and supplemented by more current data collected by a multidisciplinary consulting team comprised of Boyle Engineering Corporation (Boyle); Kenneth D. Schmidt and Associates (KDSA); Cota, Duncan & Cole; and various stakeholders and local experts. All Proposition 50 guideline requirements were followed and the IRWMP was completed by April 2008.

B. Initial stakeholder process

Boyle was the prime consultant who coordinated the activities of other sub-consultants and provided water resources engineering. The hydrogeologist selected by the County, KDSA, initiated and performed the hydrogeology work under the AB 303 grant. This work included preliminary groundwater investigations in the North Fork, Coarsegold, and Raymond areas. An earlier DWR-AB303 grant was used by KDSA in 2005 to conduct groundwater investigations in the Oakhurst area. Cota, Duncan & Cole evaluated the legal issues associated with the development of water supply projects in the County. There was also a Project Manager to provide project oversight and coordinate the activities of the consultants and the Advisory Committees as well as being responsible for creating a public awareness of the information being developed as part of the IRWMP, the issues being raised, and the policies and projects being evaluated as the IRWMP developed.

Participation by the public and other County stakeholders was crucial to the development of the IRWMP, since support, and endorsement of the local communities for the projects, programs, and policies developed as part of the IRWMP would be critical to facilitate

implementation. Advisory committees were formed to assist in the deliberation of issues addressed in the IRWMP. The Advisory Committees comprised over 70 individuals representing community organizations, municipalities, irrigation and water districts, and non-districted areas. Details on the Advisory Committees and the public participation are summarized as follows:

a. Foothills and Mountains Advisory Committees

Four Advisory Committees were formed to represent the community study areas in the Foothills and Mountains of the County. The four Advisory Committees represented the communities of Oakhurst, North Fork, Coarsegold, and Raymond. Due to the commonality of certain issues, joint advisory committee meetings were occasionally held. Approximately 17 advisory committee meetings were held with the Foothills and Mountains committees to discuss Plan development. In addition, numerous meetings had been previously held during the Oakhurst hydrogeologic evaluation.

b. Valley Floor Advisory Committee

One committee represented the Valley Floor and held approximately ten committee meetings. The primary focus of the Valley Floor advisory committee was to develop water management strategies to help alleviate the overdraft in the Valley Floor. There was a particular focus on the non-districted areas on the Valley Floor, where the estimated overdraft are most severe because of an absence of surface water supplies and groundwater is the sole source of water.

C. Public Review of Draft Plan

A draft of the IRWMP was made available for the public to review through the County and was available on a website accessible through a link on Madera County's website. Organizations, agencies, and individuals were actively encouraged to provide comments and input to the IRWMP for consideration prior to its presentation to the County Board of Supervisors for acceptance.

D. Process for Developing Regional Priorities

Regional Priorities were developed through the IRWMP analysis and through stakeholder input. Some of the priorities were obvious based on the existing studies and data and on the common understanding of stakeholders. Others became clear as the planning process

developed. (Attachment 4)

The following is a summary of regional priorities. A more complete description of the recommendations is included in the current Madera Region IRWMP.

Foothills and Mountains

- Requirements for new well evaluations and testing
- Hydrogeologic evaluations for new large developments where it is proposed to use groundwater to meet the water demand
- Well spacing criteria
- Protecting groundwater recharge areas
- Expansion of sprayfields and water recycling at the Oakhurst WWTP
- Septic system ordinances
- Development of sewer systems in unsewered areas
- Feasibility of developing surface water supplies for land development in the lower Coarsegold and Raymond-Hensley Lake areas where recharge is limited.
- Legal analysis related to vegetation management projects designed to increase water supply within Madera County, such as the right to any verified increase in water supply due to the project.

Valley Floor

- Continuing overdraft of the groundwater basins.
- Addressing reductions due to San Joaquin River restoration efforts of CVP water.
- Regional participation in water banking as a potential means of augmenting water supply within the County.
- Eligibility to receive Section 215 water (water released from Friant Dam for flood control purposes).
- Developing agreements with MID, CWD and the USBR to use the Madera Canal to convey Section 215 water to County facilities or joint use facilities that may be developed as part of a multiagency project.
- Feasibility of developing a water conveyance system to deliver up to 15,000 AFY of irrigation water from the Merced Irrigation District to La Branza division of CWD.
- USBR storage investigation on the San Joaquin River (Temperance Flat Dam and Reservoir). How Madera County, as an "area of origin," can acquire a portion of

this new water supply.

- Madera Canal/Hidden Dam Pump Storage Project feasibility and funding.
- Madera Lake recharge facility.
- Increasing Madera Canal capacity.
- City of Madera Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion – feasibility of extraction wells to pump groundwater from under the ponds to prevent contaminant and exchanging this groundwater for surface water delivered upgradient of the City.
- Installation of meters for groundwater pumping.
- Identification and abandonment of wells no longer in use.
- Policies as to limitations on new agricultural and housing development, including possible groundwater pump taxes or land-based assessments to fund water supply projects.
- Flood Control deficiencies on the Chowchilla River and Ash and Berenda Sloughs and corrective actions.
- Development of an Emergency Response and Recovery Plan
- Increasing funding for the Madera County Flood Control and Water Conservation Agency
- Countywide groundwater monitoring program.

VII. Proposition 84 Update of IRWMP

Madera County has a functional IRWMP which meets the Proposition 50 guidelines.

Subsequent to its acceptance by Madera County in May 2008, a sub-committee of the Madera County Water Advisory Commission was formed to review the IRWMP and to extract all projects mentioned in the Plan to form a working list. The subcommittee's objective was to develop a complete list of recommended projects, studies and other activities for prioritization and funding. This sub-committee met monthly and, as the project list evolved, worked to prioritize all of the projects for implementation.

In November 2008 new information was released about the next IRWMP funding rounds and the new Proposition 84 requirements and standards. Since the Madera County IRWMP no longer met all of the standards for implementation, the efforts of the subcommittee were re-directed to the formation of a Regional Water Management Group and the development of the RAP application.

The Madera Region was conditionally accepted for purposes of the initial IRWM implementation funding round. The newly formed Regional Water Management Group was then focused on two immediate objectives: 1) select priority projects for the IRWM implementation funding, and 2) prepare an application for IRWM Planning funds to update its plan so that it meets current IRWMP guidelines. The RWMG also considered the issue of CEQA compliance and determined that 1) for purposes of the implementation grant it would select projects which already have completed or have the resources to complete CEQA requirements, and 2) the application for IRWM Planning funds is would be statutorily exempt of CEQA pursuant to Section 15262⁶.

As part of the proposed IRWMP update, the chapters of the existing IRWMP will be re-organized to be consistent with the State's new guidelines. Most of the sections are still acceptable within the new standards, however this reorganization will allow for expedited and simplified review by DWR staff. The new areas or chapters that need to be added or improved upon to meet the new standards are Climate Change; Governance, Coordination, and Integration; Relation to Local Water and Land Use Planning; and working towards a new Region Description. The issue of future updates to the IRWMP will also be addressed.

While the RWMG is eager to obtain implementation funding to meet the many critical project needs within the region, it recognizes that the required IRWMP update provides opportunities and resources to achieve a multitude of benefits:

- The planning process will allow the region to consolidate information about Climate Change, its impacts on water supplies and processes, and possible opportunities for mitigation and adaptation;
- The planning process will provide a structured opportunity to encourage participation by more of the regional stakeholders. This may attract more of the stakeholders to join the RWMG and provide their expertise and perspectives on the issues. During this process the governance structure can be re-examined to see how it can be more inclusive, efficient, and effective.

⁶ Paraphrased, "a project involving only planning studies for possible future actions which the agency has not yet been approved, adopted, or funded does not require the preparation of an EIR or Negative Declaration but does require consideration of environmental factors. This section does not apply to the adoption of a plan that will have a legally binding effect on later activities." As the IRWMP does not propose policy or invoke restrictions on future projects, the action is exempt of CEQA.

- The current IRWMP's list of projects and recommendations (Chapter 9) is unfortunately not a complete outline of all of the recommendations suggested within the plan. The update process will provide an opportunity to create a complete list of recommendations and projects for future prioritization and implementation. This list will include the projects and recommendations in the original plan as well as additional projects and priorities which have emerged since the original plan was created.
- The focus on Governance, Coordination, and Integration will provide an opportunity to examine the various policy and planning agencies within the region that relate to water and natural resources and how they can best communicate and work together.
- The planning activities will assist with the current update of the Madera County general plan
 - by providing updated background information
 - by recommending policies
 - by relating water needs and resources to land use policies.
- Finally, the activity will give the Madera region an opportunity to consider the potential consolidation with the nearby Central California (Mariposa) and Merced regions. Although there would be theoretical advantages, many of the stakeholders - particularly those within the Madera region - felt that the issues facing the three regions were not sufficiently similar for an effective consolidation. As the Central California and the Merced regions start to develop their IRWMPs this should become more evident one way or another.

VIII. Work Plan

General Overview of the Work Plan:

The IRWM Update process will be an 18 month process. This will provide sufficient time

- for the RWMG to hold stakeholder meetings and obtain feedback,
- for the Project Manager to hold workshops to develop integrated strategies, and
- for the contractor to research the required information and to update the plan according to the most current data, stakeholder input, and the workshop results.

This will also provide sufficient time for submittal of quarterly reports, final reports and other administrative requirements.

The process will be managed by the applicant, Yosemite/Sequoia Resource Conservation and Development Council, which has been chosen to work with and represent the Regional Water Management Group. The applicant will hire the Project Manager to coordinate and facilitate the stakeholder meetings and presentations. The applicant will also contract with a planning/engineering firm that will be responsible for collecting stakeholder information, rewriting, reorganizing, and updating the current IRWM plan to complete the project. It is expected that the applicant will supply the Grant Administrator and the clerical/fiscal administration support throughout the 18 month period.

The following tasks have been identified to prepare an update to the IRWMP. The tasks are consistent with the budget and schedule sections, and have been structured to provide an efficient way to solicit stakeholder input and meet the necessary plan update requirements.

Task 1. Manage Collaborative Process and Public Input

The IRWMP update will utilize committee meetings, stakeholder meetings and stakeholder workshops to solicit input and present updates on the planning process. Task 1 includes all of the general management and administration tasks for the proposed update process, including public input, review by the RWMG, the updated plan adoption meetings as well as other public outreach and input meetings, updating the project website (currently a part of the Madera County website), Grant Administration and reporting, and administrative overhead. Details are as follows:

The Regional Water Management Group (RWMG): The RWMG will be responsible for the review and approval of the IRWMP revisions and the final updated IRWMP plan. All RWMG meetings are open to members, stakeholders, and the general public. The RWMG will meet once a month for the 18-month project period; with three of those meetings to be substituted by Stakeholder workshops (=15 actual RWMG meetings). These meetings are rotated between three locations; two in the valley and one in the foothills to allow the opportunity for all to attend in the extensive region. The budget reflects preparation, travel costs and attendance for the RWMG members as a contribution to the project. The Applicant as the lead agency will develop and distribute the agendas for the meetings, take the minutes, provide copies of meeting materials, and arrange for the locations of each meeting. In addition, the Project Manager will publicize the meetings, coordinate the involvement and presentations of the consultants,

provide updated materials to the stakeholders, and arrange for special presentations and/or facilitators as necessary.

Stakeholder Input:

Stakeholder understanding and input is critical to a thorough and implementable IRWM Plan. A presentation will be made at the RWMG meeting to inform the members and other interested parties about the Plan Update process and the opportunities for stakeholder input. Following the presentation at the RWMG's meeting, a series of open stakeholder meetings will be conducted to solicit input for the IRWMP update. The meetings will focus on specific topics, such as Climate Change, rather than the entire update. The process will include a total of 12 stakeholder group meetings. A number of these meetings will be scheduled to coincide with the Regional Water Management Group meetings, and will be publicized through email correspondence and appropriate webpage. The Project Manager will organize and facilitate these meetings. He or she will also contact DACs and Regional Native American tribes to encourage their attendance and input. All meetings will be documented and the results incorporated into the Plan Update.

Develop and Implement Issue-Specific Workshops:

Four issue-specific workshops will be held during the 18 month IRWMP Update process where stakeholder agencies can discuss integrated project strategies and how to coordinate and collaborate on priority projects. Examples may be climate change assessment and response, flood control, vegetation management, etc. Though some of these issues are already represented in the current plan, there may be an opportunity for updating background information or strategies. The workshops will be an opportunity for regional stakeholders to learn about best practices, discuss the issues comprehensively, and make recommendations for multi-benefit, integrated strategies to be included in the IRWM Plan Update. This task includes funding for workshop preparation and expenses.

Other Outreach/Input Meetings. The project staff will organize and facilitate other meetings to educate and obtain input from stakeholders who are not able to attend the RWMG meetings. These meetings will be used as a way of brainstorming how to approach the most critical issues in an integrated regional way, with collaboration and cooperation from the various stakeholders. These meetings will include:

Initial Project Meeting:

An initial meeting will be held with the RWMG to review required IRWMP changes and planned scope for development of the IRWMP update. During this meeting, the planning/engineering firm will present a summary of the required changes to the IRWM, provide an overview of the proposed scope of work, budget and schedule for completion, and confirm approach for planned stakeholder input to the process.

Quarterly Plan Update Progress Meetings:

Throughout the course of the project, the Project Manager will arrange for quarterly stakeholder meetings at times or locations designed to allow for broader stakeholder input. These meetings will provide updates on the work and solicit input on key issues.

At least three of these quarterly meetings will be held in Disadvantaged Communities to facilitate DAC input and involvement.

Statewide meetings

The Project manager will attend 2 statewide meetings in Sacramento during the 18 month process. It is important to get a statewide view of the process and the projects as well as a regional view.

Plan Adoption by Member's Boards

The Project Manager will provide information and coordinate presentations to the RWMG signatory boards to assist with their decision to adopt the revised/updated IRWMP. There will be approximately 15 presentations to boards of the entities represented within the RWMG. The adopted plan will then be made available in electronic and print form to the RWMG agencies and other stakeholders.

Website Upkeep and Data Management

The Project Manager will regularly update the project website with information about upcoming meetings, meeting agendas and notes, and drafts of the updated document. The website will link to a page maintained by the planning/ engineering firm hired to complete the updated plan which contains information about the plans and studies used in the IRWMP update document. The page will be designed to allow stakeholders to upload additional documents or references related to the IRWMP work.

General Project Management:

This task includes:

- overseeing the planning/engineering firm's work in drafting the IRWMP and making regular presentations to the Regional Water Management Group and other groups,
- working with stakeholders to build collaborations for related projects and funding opportunities,
- attending meetings within and outside the region to discuss the Madera Region IRWMP process and coordinate with other collaborative efforts (such as the Southern Sierra IRWMP, Mariposa IRWMP, Merced IRWMP),
- developing funding and staffing mechanisms to assure a sustainable IRWMP implementation process.
- Preparation of Quarterly Progress Reporting and Reimbursement Requests
- Preparation of a Draft IRWM Plan Update Report and Submittal to DWR
- Preparation of the Final IRWMP Report and Submittal to DWR

Grant administration, supplies, and indirect/overhead: This task includes submission of reports and invoices to DWR, tracking expenses, contract bidding and oversight, responding to information requests, misc. secretarial and administrative tasks, etc. This also covers expenses necessary to support the numerous meetings which are a part of the IRWMP planning process.

Task 2 – Create IRWMP Update

A consultant firm with water and resource management planning expertise will be selected through a competitive process to create the updated plan. As a donation of services, Provost and Pritchard developed a scope of work and budget for this portion of the work which was used to determine the overall application budget.

Task 2.1 Workshops and Stakeholder meetings

The consultant firm will attend workshops and stakeholder meetings to report on Plan updates and obtain input and recommendations.

Task 2.2 Prepare Draft Plan Update:

The consulting firm will

- Complete the necessary research for the new IRWMP chapters
- Integrate stakeholder input,

- Re-organize existing IRWMP chapters as consistent with State guidelines, (although a re-organization is required, a rewrite of many of the sections is not required,) and
- Complete a Draft Updated Plan. The following is a tentative outline for the updated IRWMP:

Chapter 1 - Governance, Coordination and Integration

Chapter 2 - Region Description

Chapter 3 - Objectives

Chapter 4 - Resource Management Strategies

Chapter 5 - Project Review Process

Chapter 6 - Impact and Benefit

Chapter 7 - Plan Performance and Monitoring

Chapter 8 - Data Management

Chapter 9 - Financing

Chapter 10 - Water Resources Setting and Water Budget

Chapter 11 - Relation to Local Water and Land Use Planning

Chapter 12 - Stakeholder Involvement

Chapter 13 - Climate Change

Appendices

The draft plan will include recommendations of how future updates will be included.

Presentation of Draft IRWMP:

There will be a summary presentation of the draft updated IRWMP to the RWMG upon its completion of the Draft updated IRWMP. The meeting will be open to all members and interested parties, and will be scheduled at either a regular or special RWMG meeting. The intent of the meeting is to provide an overall summary of the IRWMP changes to familiarize members and interested parties with the changes prior to providing final comment. The meeting will be publicized via email and the appropriate website. At the meeting, copies of the Draft updated IRWMP will be provided, and an appropriate length comment period (likely 30-45 days) will be initiated. Additional presentations will be made to each of the RWMG signatory entities.

Task 2.3 - Preparation of Final Updated IRWMP

Summary of Comments Received:

Upon receipt of Draft Plan comments, all comments will be summarized and prepared for consideration by the Plan preparation team and Regional Water Management Group. The summary will include a recommendation from the planning/engineering firm on how to address the comments in the Plan Update. The summary and recommendations will be presented to the Regional Water Management Group.

Prepare Final IRWMP:

Upon consensus of how to address the Plan Update comments, the Final updated IRWMP will be prepared. Hardcopies and CDs of the final document will be prepared and submitted to the RWMG member agencies. A digital copy of the updated Final IRWMP will be added to the appropriate website.

IRWM Highlight Document:

A highlight document summarizing the updated IRWMP will be prepared. The document will be similar in format to the California Water Plan 2009 Update Summary Document.

RWMG Board Adoption of Updated Final IRWMP:

The Final updated IRWMP will be presented by the planning/engineering firm to the RWMG. Additional presentations will be made to the boards of each of the RWMG signatory entities. The Project Manager will be available to attend the signatory member board meetings if necessary to assist in the explanation of all changes and additions. A summary of the final Plan changes and additions will be presented to the RWMG as well as 15 copies going to each member of the RWMG.

IX. Climate Change

Future increases in air temperature and shifts in precipitation patterns could affect our water supply by changing how much water is available, when it is available, and how it is used. A new section for the updated Plan will be developed examining Climate Change effects on the Region's water supply and potential impacts to the natural resources, agriculture, residential development and industrial activities in the region. One of the stakeholder workshops will be dedicated to this issue. The goal of the workshop will be to inform the stakeholders, obtain information, and examine potential policies and activities to respond to climate change

challenges, including

- increased risk of fire,
- modification of habitat,
- changes in the amount, intensity, timing, quality, and variability of runoff and recharge
- water storage needs,
- increased risk of flooding,
- water conservation opportunities
- etc.

Climate change mitigation opportunities in the region will also be examined.

The National Center for Conservation Science and Policy has already completed a good analysis of climate change impacts for this region on a basin-level, including proposed adaptation and mitigation strategies. Also the California Department of Water Resources has created a Climate Change Document Clearinghouse with additional research and information on how to deal with Climate Change. These resources will be used in the development of this section of the Plan.

X. Involvement of Disadvantaged Communities in IRWM Planning Effort

Madera County as a whole and the vast majority of towns within its borders meet the definition of DACs. In order to be considered an DAC, a community must have a MHI less than \$37,994 (80% of the CA MHI).⁷ Madera County as a whole meets the definition of an economically disadvantaged community (DAC) with an MHI of \$36,286. In order to assess the disadvantaged status of the towns and cities within the Counties, the following is a listing of these communities and their MHIs. Cities are reported in the census information, but for our

⁷ In rural areas it is more accurate to use the 2000 Census figures rather than the Dept. of Finance estimates. This is because these estimates are not done on a small enough geographic area to capture the true income of a community. We have found that the Park Department Community Fact Finder tool is extremely inaccurate for our communities. In the case of one of the target communities, Fairmead, the community fact finder reports a MHI of \$44,185 whereas an income survey done within the last 12 months and following the HUD guidelines for CDBG income surveys found a MHI of approximately \$27,000.

purposes we have represented the unincorporated towns by the communities' zip codes.⁸ Of the 11 cities and towns listed, nine meet the definition of an DAC.

Community	Zip code	MHI	DAC?
Madera County		\$36,286	Y
Madera City		\$31,033	Y
Chowchilla City		\$30,729	Y
North Fork	93643	\$35,436	Y
Oakhurst	93644	\$35,455	Y
Raymond	93653	\$36,875	Y
O'Neils	93645	\$107,474	N
Fairmead	93610	\$31,437	Y
Trigo ⁹	93636		Y
Parksdale	93638	\$35,221	Y
Parkwood	93637	\$37,043	Y
Ahwahnee	93601	\$38,688	N

In addition, one of the two Tribes, the North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians, meets the DAC definition with an MHI of \$21,250.

Because the entire Region is considered a DAC, the IRWMP update process will provide outreach to all geographic areas of the County. The Project Manager will also specifically undertake to engage the involvement of these disadvantaged communities in the IRWM process. In addition, groups who assist disadvantaged communities, such as Self Help Enterprises, will be kept informed of opportunities for participation and involvement.

⁸ In rural areas, zip codes tend to be more accurate than block groups for this purpose because they follow community boundaries more accurately. Many times communities are separated into multiple block groups which, because of the low population density, also include wealthier areas in nearby cities.

⁹ For some reason, Trigo's zip code, 93636, is not reported in the census.gov American Factfinder tool, however visual inspection and familiarity with the community allows us to confidently state that it meets the EDC guidelines.

XI. IRWM Program Preferences

The proposed Planning process will address the following program preferences:

1. The Plan will promote regional projects and programs – This will be accomplished in many ways but particularly through the four workshops which will bring together stakeholders and water managers throughout the region to explore opportunities for collaborative projects and policies.
2. The Plan will effectively integrate water management programs and projects within the Madera region, a DWR-recognized sub-region of the San Joaquin Hydrologic region identified in the California Water Plan. This will be accomplished through the education of stakeholders and the development of integrated strategies.
3. The Plan will effectively resolve significant water-related conflicts within the region. One of the ways this will be done is by examining the impact of upstream activities on downstream water supply. Some activities could include meadow restoration to preserve a longer run-off period, vegetation management to decrease evapotranspiration and increase useable water, etc.
4. The Plan will address critical water supply or water quality needs of disadvantaged communities within the region. The Madera region includes many disadvantaged communities and the proposed Plan will address their needs, especially as related to out-of-date and/or poorly performing water supply infrastructure. It will also address water treatment facilities and upstream issues with water quality.
5. The Plan will effectively integrate water management with land use planning. This will be the subject of one of the update areas.
6. The Plan will promote flood control projects that provide multiple benefits, including, but not limited to, water quality improvements, ecosystem benefits, reduction of instream erosion and sedimentation, and groundwater recharge. These integrated strategies and projects will be developed as part of the planning update process.
7. The Plan will address the statewide priority of Drought Preparedness: The Plan will specifically address meadow restoration projects and other fuel reduction projects which can contribute to sustainable water supply during climate-change related water shortages.

8. The Plan will address the statewide priority of addressing water management actions that will address the key climate change issues of adaptation to climate change, including more efficient use and reuse of water supplies.
9. The Plan will address the statewide priority of Promoting Integrated Flood Management to provide multiple benefits. This issue will be addressed in workshops with the goal of developing comprehensive regional policies to improve watershed floodplains and to sustain water and flood management ecosystems.
10. The Plan will address the statewide priority of Protecting Surface Water and Groundwater Quality by addressing potential threats to water quality and developing safeguards and protective mechanisms. One specific area that will be addressed is the contamination of surface water through inadequate wastewater infrastructure.
11. The Plan will address the statewide priority of Improving Tribal Water and Natural Resources by ensuring inclusion, consultation, collaboration, and access to funding of regional tribal entities.
12. The Plan will address the statewide priority of Ensuring Equitable Distribution of Benefits by increasing the participation of small and disadvantaged communities in the IRWM process and addressing critical water supply and/or water quality needs of California Native American Tribes within the region.